

Appl. No. : 10/773,556
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph 0037 as follows:

[0037] As illustrated in Figures 3A-3E, the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120 is substantially parallel to the main housing floor of the RV 100. The additional floor 128 comprises first and second ends 138a, 138b ~~139A, 139B~~ including a second lip section 152 attached to the first end 139A that couples with a complementary lip section 154 of the main housing floor 112. When the slide-out housing 120 is deployed, the second lip section 152 couples to the complementary lip section 154 so that the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120 is substantially aligned in substantially the same plane with the main housing floor 112. When aligned, the coupling of the floors 112, 128 forms a substantially uniform planar flooring surface 156 between the main housing 106 and the slide-out housing 120.

Please replace paragraph 0038 as follows:

[0038] In addition, the outer sidewall 126a comprises an upper section 142a that attaches to the second end 140b of the additional roof 130 and a lower section 142b that attaches to the second end ~~[[142b]]~~ 138a of the additional floor 128 in a substantially perpendicular manner. It should be appreciated that the second end 140b of the additional roof 130 may be attached to the upper section 142a of the outer sidewall 126a at an angular offset such that the first end 140a of the additional roof 130 may be at a height that is at least larger than the height of the second end 140b of the additional roof 130 with respect to the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120. The outer sidewall 126a further comprises flanged edges 160 positioned adjacent to the outer perimeter of the outer sidewall 126a that abuts the first planar sidewall 116c of the main housing 106 when the slide-out housing 120 is retracted. In one embodiment, the flanged edges 160 of the outer sidewall 126a function as sealing components to prevent the external environment from affecting the climate within the interior living spaces 110, 132.

Appl. No. : 10/773,556
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Please replace paragraph 0039 as follows:

[0039] The main housing 106 further comprises a cam assembly 170 having one or more cam members 172 attached to the vehicle frame 108 or a sub-floor component 124 of the main housing floor 112 via one or more mounting brackets 174 and one or more first fastening pins 176, respectively. In one embodiment, the cam member 172 comprises an oval contoured structure having an elongate dimension with partially tipped surfaces ~~179A~~ 178a and a narrow dimension with partially flattened surfaces ~~179B~~ 178b including a curved surface ~~179C~~ 178c defined there between. The difference between the length of the elongate dimension and the length of the narrow dimension is, in this embodiment, at least the thickness of the main housing floor 112 so that, during rotation of the cam member 172, the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120 can be lifted above the main housing floor 112. In addition, the cam assembly 170 also comprises an actuating mechanism (shown in Figures 5A, 5B) that induces rotation of the cam member 172 about a horizontal axis defined by the first fastening pin 176 when the slide-out housing 120 is lifted and lowered during retraction and deployment. As will be described in greater detail herein below, the actuating mechanism may comprise various types of electrical, mechanical, pneumatic, or hydraulic devices without departing from the scope of the present invention. Also, the cam member 172 may comprise a rigid metal composition that can withstand heavy weight stresses without deforming. It should be appreciated that the cam member 172 may comprise various other material compositions without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph 0041 as follows:

[0041] The main housing 106 still further comprises a telescoping member 180 having a device housing 182 that is attached to the vehicle frame 108 and an armature 184 that distally extends from the device housing 182 at a first end ~~189A~~ 188a of the armature 184 so as to deploy the slide-out housing 120 from the main housing 106 via the opening 118 in the first planar sidewall 116c. The armature 184 also extends towards the first end ~~189A~~ 188a within the device housing 182 so as to retract the slide-out housing 120 into the main housing 106 via the opening 118 in the first planar sidewall 116c. It should be appreciated that the device housing 182 may

Appl. No. : **10/773,556**
Filed : **February 5, 2004**

also be attached to the main housing floor 112 or to the sub-floor component 124 of the main housing floor 112 in a generally known manner without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph 0042 as follows:

[0042] Additionally, the armature 184 further comprises a second end ~~189B~~ 188b that is attached to the second end ~~139B~~ 138a of the additional flooring 128 via a second fastening pin 190 and a slotted member 192. The slotted member 192 comprises an opening that defines an enclosed slotted section 194. In one embodiment, the second end ~~189B~~ 188b of the armature 184 couples to the slotted section 194 of the slotted member 192 via the second fastening pin 190 so that the slide-out housing 120 including the additional floor 128 can freely move in a vertical direction 198 without altering the positional orientation of the telescoping member 180 including the armature 184 and the device housing 182. In addition, as will be described in greater detail herein below, the slide-out housing 120 can be lifted and lowered during retraction and deployment by the cam assembly 170, wherein the armature 184 maintains, in one embodiment, a substantially parallel position with respect to the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120.

Please replace paragraph 0063 as follows:

[0063] Also, each of the first auxiliary members 322 are rotatably attached from end to end to second auxiliary members 324 via second bolt members 362 so as to define second armature joints 358. Moreover, each of the second auxiliary members 360 are ~~rotatably~~ attached end to end to the first fastening pin 176 so that, when the second auxiliary armatures 360 rotate, the first fastening pin also rotates. As previously described, the first fastening pin 176 is rotatably attached to the mounting brackets 174a, 174b.

Please replace paragraph 0083 as follows:

[0083] In one embodiment, as illustrated in Figure 9A, the hinged flooring mechanism 500 comprises a movable floor section 502 mounted to the main housing floor 112 via a hinge assembly 504. The hinge assembly 504 may comprise a generally known hinging device that is

attached to a first end ~~509a~~ 508a of the movable floor section 502 and the main housing floor 112 in a manner so as to allow the movable floor section 502 to rotate in first and second directions 510, 512. In one aspect, the movable floor section 502 rotates in the first direction 510 to a first position 528a so that an upper surface 520 of the movable floor section 502 substantially aligns with the main housing floor 112 so as to form a substantially planar flooring surface 526 between the main housing floor 112, the additional floor 128, and the movable floor section 502. It should be appreciated that the movable floor section 502 may comprise at least a portion of the main housing floor 112 that is separate or detached therefrom and adjacent to the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120.

Please replace paragraph 0085 as follows:

[0085] As further illustrated in Figure 9A, the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120 comprises a tapered section 516 that narrows from a first end ~~519A~~ 518a to a second end ~~519B~~ 518b of the additional floor 128. Thus, the movable floor section 502 can also rotate in the first direction 510 so that an upper ledge 522 of the movable floor section 502 abuts first end ~~519A~~ 518a of the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120. Also, when the movable floor member 502 rotates in the first direction 510, the first end ~~509A~~ 508a movable floor member 502 abuts the main housing floor 112, and a second end ~~509A~~ 508b movable floor member 502 lifts above the frame member 108 so as to form a first gap 514 therebetween. As will be described in greater detail herein below, the tapered section 516 of the additional floor 128 allow the slide-out housing 120 to be retracted and deployed from the main housing 106.

Please replace paragraph 0086 as follows:

[0086] As illustrated in Figure 9B, the movable floor section 502 is rotated in the second direction 512 about the hinge assembly 504 to a second position 528b so that the upper ledge 522 is lowered below the first end ~~519A~~ 518a of the additional floor 128. In addition, when the movable floor section 502 is rotated in the second direction 512, the second end ~~509B~~ of the movable floor section 502 abuts the vehicle frame 108 so as to close the first gap 514 as described with reference to Figure 9A. Also, the first end ~~509A~~ 508a of the movable floor section 502 moves away from the main housing floor 112 so as to form a second gap 540 therebetween.

Appl. No. : **10/773,556**
Filed : **February 5, 2004**

As further illustrated in Figure 9B, rotating the movable floor section 502 in the second direction 512 creates an inclined surface 538 on the movable floor section 502 to thereby allow the tapered section 516 of the additional floor to communicate therewith so as to glide along the inclined surface 538 when the slide-out housing 120 to be retracted within the main housing 106.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 15 (unnumbered) as follows:

As illustrated in Figure 9C, the slide-out housing 120 can be retracted within the main housing 106 such that a second ledge 542 of the additional floor 128 communicates with the first ledge 522. In one embodiment, this forms an interlocking region 548 of the movable floor section 502 and the additional floor 128 when the slide-out housing 120 is retracted. As further illustrated in Figure 9C, the additional floor 128 also rests on the inclined surface ~~5378~~ 538 of the movable floor 502 and supports at least a portion of the weight of the slide-out housing 120 during travel. Therefore, the interlocking region 548 in conjunction with the resting contact between the additional floor 128 and the movable floor section 502 readily secures the slide-out housing 120 to the main housing 106.

Please replace paragraph 0089 as follows:

[0089] Similarly, during deployment of the slide-out housing 120, the telescoping member 180 applies a pushing force to the slotted member 192 so as to deploy or push the slide-out housing 120 out of the main housing 106. This causes the additional floor 128 to slide along the movable floor section 502 so as to vertically lower the additional floor 128 of the slide-out housing 120 in plane with the main housing floor 112 as illustrated in Figure 9A. Thus, lowering of the slide-out housing 120 is actuated by extending the armature 184 outward from the device housing 182, which glides the tapered section 516 of the additional floor 128 along the inclined surface 538 of the rotated movable floor section 502. In one aspect, since the additional floor 128 is in contact with the movable floor section 502, the applied pushing force of the telescoping member 180 vertically lowers the slide-out housing 120 to a position substantially aligned with the main housing floor 112. When this occurs, the movable floor section 502 rotates in the first direction 510 so that the first ledge 522 contacts or abuts the first end ~~519A~~ 518a of the additional floor 128 in a manner as previously described.

Please replace paragraph 0091 as follows:

[0091] Figure 9D illustrates the movable floor section 502 in the first or lifted position 528a so as to define the substantially planar flooring surface 526 as described with reference to Figure 9A. Figure 9E illustrates the movable floor section 502 in the second or lowered position 528b so as to define the inclined surface ~~538b~~ 538 as described with reference to Figure 9B. In one embodiment, an actuating mechanism 550 may be used to lift the movable floor section 502 into the first position 528a as illustrated in Figure 9D, or lower the movable floor section 502 into the second position 528b as illustrated in Figure 9E. In addition, the actuating mechanism 550 comprises an exterior housing 552 mounted to the vehicle frame 106 of the main housing 106 and an armature 554, such as a piston, attached to the movable floor section 502 via a fastener 556. In one aspect, the actuating mechanism 550 operates in a similar manner as the vertical actuating mechanism 400 as described with reference to Figures 7A-7D. Also, the actuating mechanism 550 may comprise a rigid metal composition that can withstand heavy weight stresses without deforming. In addition, it should be appreciated that the actuating mechanism 550 may comprise various other material compositions without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph 0092 as follows:

[0092] It should further be appreciated that the actuating mechanism 550 may utilize various types of electrical, mechanical, pneumatic, or hydraulic devices without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, in one aspect, the actuating mechanism 550 may include one or more solenoid components, wherein the solenoid controlled piston ~~5542~~ 554 is adapted to induce movement of the hinged floor section 502 between the first and second positions 528a, 528b. In another aspect, the actuating mechanism 550 may include one or more hydraulic components, wherein the hydraulic controlled piston 554 is adapted to induce movement of the hinged floor section 502 between the first and second positions 528a, 528b. In still another aspect, the actuating mechanism 550 may include one or more pneumatic components, wherein the pneumatic controlled piston 554 is adapted to induce movement of the hinged floor section 502 between the first and second positions 528a, 528b.